





Mayor's message

Welcome to the first edition of the Gazette for 2025. As your Mayor, I'm delighted to connect with you through this newsletter and share some of the fantastic work happening across our community

This issue is packed with exciting updates on projects big and small, demonstrating our commitment to improving infrastructure, enhancing community spaces, listening to the voices of the community we serve and supporting residents.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

This year, Council Meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays, starting at 6pm: 25 February, 25 March, 22 April, 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 26 August, 23 September, 28 October, 25 November and 16 December.

There will also be a Council Meeting (Budget Submissions) on 1 April and the Mayor Election on 11 November 2025.

In 2025, all Council Meetings will be held at either the Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or at The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

Residents and members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of Golden Plains Shire.

From roadworks and oval upgrades to family services improvements and our Growing Places initiative, we've got a lot to share. We're also highlighting important programs like Golden Spaces, and we're also tackling important issues like responsible pet ownership and litter reduction.

Your feedback is invaluable, and we've heard you! The recent consultation on the glass bin update has provided key insights. We've also released a 'What We Heard' report on the Council Plan community consultation journey, demonstrating our commitment to community engagement and transparency. For a closer look at how we're investing in our community to deliver over 70 services, you can also explore the details on the 2025-26 Budget process.

The Gazette truly showcases the positive progress happening across Golden Plains Shire. I invite you to unfold the pages, take some time to read through this edition as it contains some really great news and information.

Yours in community,

Cr Sarah Hayden
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire Council



All meetings of Council are livestreamed on Council's website. For a direct link, visit Council's website or social media on the day of the meeting, with a recording available on Council's website following the meeting.

Any person can ask a maximum of two questions of Council during a 30-minute Question Time and all questions must be lodged by 10am on the day of the meeting by email, Council's website or hand-delivered to Council's Customer Hubs.

The meeting agenda is available on Council's website on the Friday prior to the meeting. For agendas and more information, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

Road Repairs in Golden Plains Shire

Council’s Roads and Drainage Team has been busy with road repairs across the Golden Plains Shire.

The intersection of Haddon School Road and Racecourse Road in Haddon was recently resurfaced using the new Jet patcher road maintenance machine.

Works have also been completed on the Shelford Mt Mercer Road and a section of McPhillips Road in Bannockburn has been re-sheeted.

Works are underway on Gumley Road shoulder improvements, re-sheeting of Hopes Plains Road, pavement improvement works along Thompsons Road in Maude and shoulder repair on the Shelford-Cressy Road.

For more information about roads in Golden Plains Shire, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/roads.



Works completed at the intersection of Haddon School Road and Racecourse Road in Haddon.

Road Grading Calendar

Golden Plains Shire Council’s road grading calendar is available through Council’s online events calendar, helping residents to easily track when maintenance will be done on unsealed roads.

The annual Road Grading Program allows for grading of Council’s unsealed road network in the Shire throughout the year. Council has committed to grading every road in the Shire’s 714km unsealed Council road network at least once a year through its Unsealed Road Grading Maintenance Charter.

Residents can visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events to see when Council’s graders will be in which areas of the Shire. They can either use the search box to view road grading listings in their individual town or click on the calendar to search month by month.



Scan to view the events calendar



BANNOCKBURN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE EXTENSION PROJECT

Construction works are progressing well on the Bannockburn Family Services Centre extension project.

Updates to the Family Services Centre include a new entrance and reception space for Kardinia Early Learning, an extension to the existing childcare kitchen space and an undercover walkway between the childcare leased areas including the new Kindergarten module.

The \$650,000 Bannockburn Family Services Centre extension project is funded by \$450,000 from the Federal Government's Investing in Our Communities Program and \$200,000 from Golden Plains Shire Council.

Works are scheduled to be completed in May 2025.



COME AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

Are you passionate about your community? Are you involved in a community group that is looking to have project support? Then the Community Planning Program is for you!

Community planning is a Council supported initiative which builds the connection between communities and local government. It's a process where communities identify their goals for improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of their town through the development of four-year Community Plans.

This program is a great opportunity to strengthen community and build resilience for the future of your town. Each town is provided a mentor to support skill development and community engagement to identify

priority projects for the next four years.



The next round of towns to take part are Enfield, Smythesdale, Barunah Park, Ross Creek/Smythes Creek and Napoleons. Reach out to Council's Community Partnerships Officer on 5220 7111 to discuss what's involved.



**JOIN THE
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
REGISTER**



Join the Community Engagement Register to receive *Engage*, Council's monthly engagement e-newsletter.

-  Complete the simple web form at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register
-  Email communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au



Brand New Linton Oval Officially Open

An official opening to celebrate the completed Linton Oval Reconstruction was held on Friday 14 March.

Works to completely reconstruct the oval commenced in late 2023 and have included: demolition and re-shaping of the oval, installation of sub-surface irrigation and drainage systems, surveying and levelling of a new 100mm sand profile, new perimeter fencing, hard cricket wicket, AFL goal posts and supporting infrastructure including coaches and umpires' boxes, and the rollout of instant turf.

Users of the oval will benefit greatly from the improved oval surface which can be utilised all-year-round.

This \$1.425M project was a collaborative effort with \$780,000 funded from the Federal Government, \$200,000 from the State Government, and \$445,000 from Golden Plains Shire Council.



Don Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval Receives Fresh Upgrade

Last month, Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Sarah Hayden alongside Member for Eureka, Michaela Settle MP, officially opened the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval upgrade in Teesdale.

This \$798,000 project is funded with \$250,000 from the State Government's Country Football and Netball Program, with the remaining \$548,000 provided by Golden Plains Shire Council.

The upgrade includes the installation of an automated irrigation system with a new pump, subsurface drainage, realignment of oval boundary, new fencing with concrete edging and new coach's boxes. New goal posts and behind goal safety netting have also been installed.

PROPOSED LETHBRIDGE SKATE PARK UPGRADE

Community consultation on the proposed Lethbridge Skate Park upgrade commenced last month, with Council proposing to revitalise the existing skate park located at the Lethbridge Active Youth Space.

The proposed upgrade to the Active Youth Space will deliver a range of improvements, including upgraded skate park facilities, multi-use area, seating, shade/shelters, drinking fountain, improved path networks and landscaping. The skate park upgrade will complement the brand-new play space which is now open to the community.

Council will begin the development of concept designs and will keep the community informed in this process with further community consultation scheduled for the coming months.

GROWING PLACES STRATEGY



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SHAPES GROWING PLACES STRATEGY

Extensive community consultation has played a vital role in shaping the latest draft of the Growing Places Strategy (GPS). The GPS is Golden Plains Shire's proposed blueprint for where housing and population growth could be supported to 2050 and beyond.

In mid-2023, Council released a draft 'Future Growth Scenario' to initiate discussions with the community. Feedback received from community members and local stakeholders highlighted three priority concerns: traffic and transport, the timely supply of supporting infrastructure and services, and preserving the Shire's unique country feel.

This feedback, alongside further research and technical studies, has significantly influenced the latest draft of the GPS which was recently made available for comment. The Strategy includes an updated 'Future Growth Scenario' and continues to focus growth in areas where supporting infrastructure already exists.

The draft GPS with an action plan for implementation, suggested planning scheme changes, previous consultation findings and the complete background research and technical studies are available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

The final Strategy will be presented to Council for consideration later this year.



VISIT THE GOLDEN SPACES WINTER AND SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

Have you visited the Golden Spaces 2024 Exhibitions?

Currently on display at the Golden Plains Civic Centre in Bannockburn, the 2024 Winter Exhibition features artworks from over 20 artists across the Shire.

The 2024 Summer Exhibition is also on display at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre and will travel up to The Well in Smythesdale in April.

Golden Spaces is a free community-based program for group art exhibitions. The aim of Golden Spaces is to encourage the broader community's participation in and access to the arts in a local setting while providing professional development opportunities for emerging and established artists across the region.

There are two opportunities per calendar year to participate in Golden Spaces, with the next opportunity opening later in 2025.

To stay up to date with the latest updates, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/golden-spaces.

ANIMAL RENEWALS AND UPGRADES TO COUNCIL'S ANIMAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Each year pet registrations are due on 10 April. This is a legal requirement governed by state legislation, and Council is the government agency responsible for its implementation.

Recently Council has upgraded our Animal Registration system to provide a better experience for our customers and provide our team with accurate animal registration information.

Due to this change, we are asking everyone to double check your pet's information contained in this renewal notice to make sure it's correct. If any of the information needs updating – please email us at customerhub@GPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU.

Payment by BPAY, Australia Post Billpay or pay via our website

Please be advised that your Cat's registration renewal has a **new BPAY** reference number this year. We kindly ask you to check and ensure you use the correct reference number when paying your cat's registration. If you use the incorrect reference number your cat's registration will remain unpaid.

For more information, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/pets-and-animals](http://GOLDENPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU/RESIDENT/PETS-AND-ANIMALS).



ITEMS LEFT ON NATURE STRIPS

Council has received a number of recent litter reports for broken furniture left on nature strips in front of dwellings.

While it is common for residents to leave items on nature strips hoping they will be picked up by



INCREASED LITTER DUMPING COSTLY TO THE COMMUNITY

Between July 2024 and February 2025 Council received 145 reports of illegally dumped litter, 12 reports of abandoned cars and eight reports of building site refuse within the Shire. The incidents of illegally dumped litter has more than doubled compared to the equivalent period from November 2023 to June 2024 when 67 reports were recorded.

The illegally dumped rubbish frequently includes children's toys, bedding, mattresses, furniture, paint cans and electronics. The cost falls upon every single resident in the Shire when Council officers spend time collecting and investigating who dumped the rubbish, and finally paying for disposal of the waste.

These incidents are investigated by the Compliance and Prosecutions Division and where the responsible individual can be identified, infringements can be issued pursuant to the *Environment Protection Act 2017 (VIC)*. Council can also pass on cost of removal of rubbish to the responsible person.

Council encourages anyone who sees litter being left to take down details of what they have seen, such as car registration number, and reporting it to Council.

someone else, these items should not remain outside your home for a prolonged period, nor overnight.

Take them inside and try again the next day and if they haven't been collected within a couple of days, take the item away and dispose of it in another manner. Council will prompt residents to take responsibility for their own waste for items which remain on the nature strip for more than two days.

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Council Plan 2025-2029 What We Heard Report

Council has released a What We Heard Report following an extensive community engagement program in relation to the development of its next four-year Council Plan.

Throughout 2024, more than 1000 community members participated in the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan through online and hard-copy surveys,

in-person and online workshops, and targeted outreach with youth and Municipal Health and Wellbeing partners.

The Community Engagement Summary Report: Shaping Our Future: Development of Council Plan 2025-2029 is now available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

Councillors and Council staff are using the community feedback to develop the Draft 2025-2029 Council Plan. There will be further opportunities for the community to provide feedback during the Draft Plan's public consultation period in mid-2025.

GLASS RECYCLING BINS COLLECTION HAS BEGUN

Collection of the new glass recycling bin (purple lid) started on Monday 17 February 2025. Glass recycling bins are collected every 4 weeks and the next collection will begin from Monday 17 March.

We understand that introducing a new service can take time to get used to and Council appreciates your help to improve recycling and reduce waste going to landfills.

A comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions section on our website answers most questions people have about this new service and should assist in making the transition smoother.

The updated waste collection schedule is designed to be the most cost-effective option for

the community when balancing the increasing cost of travel and disposal of general waste and recyclables.

These changes help us to:

- Deploy a more efficient recycling schedule.
- Reduce landfill.
- Keep costs to community down.

For those who need more capacity in their bins, additional bins are available for a fee. More information is available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

Golden Plains Shire Council is proud to support the Victorian Government's push to standardise recycling services and reduce waste going to Victorian landfills.



Community Grants Available in 2025

Council is pleased to announce that we are opening the following community grants programs in 2025.

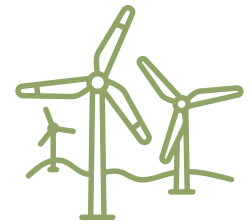
Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants will open on 1 May and close on 2 June 2025.

Community Strengthening Grants will open on 1 August and close on 1 September 2025.

These funding opportunities provide a valuable source of financial support for local events, projects and programs in Golden Plains Shire.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss your application with Council’s Community Grants team. Please enquire as soon as possible to allow adequate time to discuss your application prior to the submission deadline.

For more information about grant programs, please visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/grants or contact Council’s Community Development & Grants Officer on 5220 7111 or email: communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au



CARPARK UPGRADE AT LINTON COMMUNITY CLUB

The Linton and District Bowling Club Committee has recently upgraded its carpark at Adair Street, Linton, with help from a Victorian Government grant.

The upgrade included installation of additional lighting at the carpark and a wheelchair ramp and railing to access the club house.

This project aimed to provide a safer, more welcoming and inclusive environment while increasing the cohesion of remote communities by increasing participation in social connection events.

The Victorian Government’s Living Local Regional Grants Program in 2022 contributed \$82,500 towards this project with an additional \$10,920 contributed from the club.



CHECK OUT THE ONLINE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Council’s Online Community Directory features a range of categories and listings for people to engage with the many local community groups, clubs, services, associations and facilities based in the Shire.

Eligible groups can also add their own free listing by creating an account at Golden Plains Shire Council’s website. Once approved, groups can independently manage their own listings and update them as needed.

The Online Community Directory and a user guide with instructions on how to create a community listing are available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-directory

DRAFT BUDGET 2025/26

HAVE YOUR SAY



Development of the 2025/26 Draft Budget

Council officers are busy developing the 2025/26 Draft Budget which will outline the key initiatives Council will deliver to our community throughout the year.

Budget submissions were welcomed throughout February and these submissions are being considered in line with projected revenue, existing commitments, strategic priorities and community needs.

Council has scheduled a meeting at the Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn at 6pm, Tuesday 1 April 2025 and anyone who lodged a written submission may request to present it to Councillors at this meeting.

It is not mandatory to present your submission at the meeting.

The proposed 2025/26 Budget will then be prepared and presented to Council for approval, ideally in May 2025. This allows staff sufficient time to plan the implementation of the budget.

For more information about the 2025/26 Draft Budget, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.



Autumn Holiday Program 2025

Open to all young people aged 12 to 25 years

Young people aged 12 to 25 in Golden Plains Shire have another range of fun activities to participate in throughout the upcoming Autumn School Holidays from Monday 7 April to Friday 18 April.

The free holiday activities held across the Shire have been designed to support the needs and interests of young people, while also providing opportunities to learn new skills and connect with other young people.

To see a full schedule of available activities and to register, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/school-activity-program.

TAKE PART LOCAL ART RETURNS IN 2025

Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries is working together to deliver the Take Part Local Art Program in 2025.

Take Part Local Art features seven engaging workshops led by talented local artists within the Bannockburn Library. The first workshop of the series was held earlier this month, with the next workshop quickly approaching in April.

Take Part Local Art is a fantastic opportunity to participate in innovative workshops, providing hands-on learning for creatives across the Shire.

To see the full schedule of workshops and to register to attend, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events.



Wiser Driver Graduates Enhance Their Road Safety Awareness

The Community Inclusion team hosted the latest edition of its popular Wiser Driver course in November last year, with participants enhancing their driving skills and confidence.

Wiser Driver is an informative, informal and friendly refresher course for older drivers. The course features expert speakers who discuss how ageing can affect driving, changes to the Victorian road rules, retaining our licences and planning for the future. There were 13 participants who received a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

The Community Inclusion Team are reviewing options to hold the next Wiser Driver course in October 2025. To register your interest, please contact us via email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call our team on 5220 7111.



Escape the Heat 2025

Escape the Heat was held for its third year running, hosted at both the Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Tuesday 4 February and at The Well in Smythesdale on Tuesday 11 February 2025.

The sessions aimed to educate older residents in Golden Plains about heat awareness and fire safety. Guest speakers from the CFA, Council Officers and Community Health Nurse Brooke Greig provided information and support on wellbeing and fire prevention.

Attendees were also provided with several resources to take home and share with neighbours, friends and other community members.



GET IN TOUCH

If you have any suggestions for future editions or comments you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Inclusion Team.

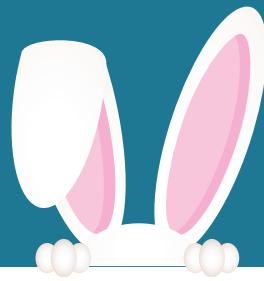
Golden Plains Shire Community Inclusion Team
(during business hours): 5220 7111
Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

CUSTOMER HUBS

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to
Friday, Phone 5220 7111

Bannockburn
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn
Victoria, 3331.

Smythesdale
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale
Victoria, 3351.



EASTER IN GOLDEN PLAINS

Golden Plains Shire Council will have altered hours during the Easter period.

Council's Customer Hubs and Council offices at Bannockburn and Smythesdale will close at 5pm, Thursday 17 April 2025 and will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Essential services will be available in this period, in case of emergency. If you need urgent assistance, please call 5220 7111 and follow the prompts.

Rubbish and Recycling Collection

There are no changes to Council's waste and recycling collection over the Easter holiday period.

Please remember to place your bins out the night before your collection day.

Rokewood Transfer Station

The Rokewood Resource Recovery Centre will be closed on Sunday 20 April 2025. It will re-open for normal operational hours of 10am to 3pm on Sunday 27 April 2025.

Maternal Child Health and Early Years Services

Maternal Child Health and Early Years Services will be closed from the evening of Thursday 17 April 2025 and will resume on Tuesday 22 April 2025.



RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers will receive their 2025-26 Rates Notices in August.



1. Pay in one full payment by 15 February 2026.
2. Pay in four instalments, due at the end of September, November, February and May.
3. Pay in 10 monthly direct debit payments, due on the 15th of the month from September 2025 to June 2026.

We understand that these options may not be suitable for everyone. We appreciate that every ratepayer has their own unique situation and we are committed to finding solutions that work.

Please call Council's Rates Team on 5220 7111 for a confidential discussion.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

P: 1300 363 036
P: 5220 7111 (24 Hours)

POSTAL ADDRESS

Golden Plains Shire Council
PO Box 111, Bannockburn,
Victoria 3331.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE
eGAZETTE

Scan to sign up now!



CONNECT WITH GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

@GPSCouncilNews

GoldenPlainsShire

goldenplains.vic.gov.au

[lovegoldenplains](https://www.instagram.com/lovegoldenplains)